



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR**

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TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Mark J. Saladino 
Treasurer and Tax Collector

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON TAXPAYER CONTRIBUTIONS
TO SUPPORT TRAUMA AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE
(AGENDA ITEM 42 – AUGUST 13, 2002)**

At the meeting held on August 6, 2002, your Board requested a supplemental report on the feasibility of a program to allow property taxpayers to make voluntary contributions in support of trauma and emergency medical care. Specifically, you asked for information concerning the "Project Angel" program, and drafts of the informational inserts that would be included with annual tax bills assuming (a) a fixed contribution of \$45, (b) a contribution specified by the taxpayer, or (c) a *suggested* contribution of \$45 (the taxpayer could give any amount).

Project Angel

The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) established the "Project Angel" program in 1983 for the purpose of raising funds to provide cash assistance to low-income and senior citizens. DWP customers can contribute to Project Angel by filling in the amount of their contribution on the payment stub of their DWP bill and adding that amount to their utility payment, sending one check. Alternatively, they can send a separate check made payable to Project Angel with their utility payment.

DWP bills are mailed six times a year. An insert describing the program is included "a few times" a year, but not in every mailing. During the 12 months ended July 31, 2002, a total of \$4,679 was contributed to Project Angel by 789 donors (average donation = \$5.93). The program is administered by the United Way, and all funds collected by DWP are forwarded to United Way for distribution to eligible recipients.

Proposed Informational Inserts

We suggest the following informational insert if a fixed contribution amount of \$45 is specified:

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION OF \$45 TO SUPPORT
CRITICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AND THE TRAUMA SYSTEM NETWORK**

The County of Los Angeles is asking each property taxpayer to voluntarily contribute \$45 to support funding for critical emergency medical care and the County's trauma system network.

To make a contribution, please check the "Voluntary Contribution" box on the left side of your property tax payment stub and add \$45 to the amount of your property tax payment, in a single check or money order.

The voluntary contribution is IN ADDITION TO your property taxes, and making a voluntary contribution DOES NOT REDUCE the amount of property taxes due.

The voluntary contribution is deductible for income tax purposes to the maximum extent permitted under applicable Federal and State laws (ID # 95-6000927).

We suggest the following informational insert if no particular contribution amount is specified:

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT
CRITICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AND THE TRAUMA SYSTEM NETWORK**

The County of Los Angeles is asking each property taxpayer to make a voluntary contribution to support funding for critical emergency medical care and the County's trauma system network.

To make a contribution, please enter the amount of your contribution in the "Voluntary Contribution" box on the left side of your property tax payment stub and add that amount to your property tax payment, in a single check or money order.

The voluntary contribution is IN ADDITION TO your property taxes, and making a voluntary contribution DOES NOT REDUCE the amount of property taxes due.

The voluntary contribution is deductible for income tax purposes to the maximum extent permitted under applicable Federal and State laws (ID # 95-6000927).

We suggest the following informational insert if \$45 is recommended, but the taxpayer can specify any amount:

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT
CRITICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AND THE TRAUMA SYSTEM NETWORK**

SUGGESTED AMOUNT: \$45

The County of Los Angeles is asking each property taxpayer to make a voluntary contribution to support funding for critical emergency medical care and the County's trauma system network.

The suggested contribution amount is \$45, but you may contribute any amount. To make a contribution, please enter the amount of your contribution in the "Voluntary Contribution" box on the left side of your property tax payment stub and add that amount to your property tax payment, in a single check or money order.

The voluntary contribution is IN ADDITION TO your property taxes, and making a voluntary contribution DOES NOT REDUCE the amount of property taxes due.

The voluntary contribution is deductible for income tax purposes to the maximum extent permitted under applicable Federal and State laws (ID # 95-6000927).

- c: Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board
- Chief Administrative Officer
- Auditor-Controller
- County Counsel